

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 AID-20 IO-13 CU-04 EUR-25 DRC-01 /160 W

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P R 101300Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7086

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY KAMPALA

USINT CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2029

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SU

SUBJ: ANTI-NIMEIRI DEVELOPMENTS: STATUS REPORT IX

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. NIMEIRI SPEECH DISAPPOINTMENT TO SUPPORTERS AND OPPONENTS, BUT ITS AMBIGUITY COMBINED WITH FAILURE RAILROAD STRIKES MAINTAINS CALM. RAILROAD OPERATING NORMALLY. NATIONAL STATE OF EMERGENCY AND ATBARA CURFEW LIFTED. REGIME HAS BEEN WEAKENED. NIMEIRI'S FUTURE COURSE UNCERTAIN. END SUMMARY.

2. NIMEIRI SPEECH. IN SPEECH DELAYED TILL EVEING SEPT 9, NIMEIRI TOOK RESTRAINED UNDRAMATIC APPROACH WITH DISAPPOINTS ADHERENTS AND PUBLIC. HE ANNOUNCED NO MAJOR ACTIONS AND INDICATED ONLY THAT A NUMBER WOULD BE FORTHCOMING. MAIN TEXT SPEECH CARRIED BY FBIS. SUMMARY OF KEY PORTIONS IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. UNIVERSITY KHARTOUM. NIMEIRI FOCUSED ON UNIVERSITY
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AS MAIN ELEMENT IN PLOT AND INDICATED EXTENSIVE PURGE OF

ADMINISTRATION AND PROFESSORS WOULD BE UNDERTAKEN ("NO-WHERE IN WORLD IS ADMINISTRATION/STUDEN RADIO 2:1"); EXCUSED MANY STUDENTS AS MISGUIDED AND IMPLIED THEY WOULD NOT BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE IN VIEW THEIR MANIPULATION BY POLITICAL INTERESTS; CHIDED UNIVERSITY AND STUDENTS FOR MISUSING THEIR FREEDOM AND FREE EDUCATION FOR DESTRUCTIVE END... ("THOSE WHO PAY FOR STUDENTS ARE HUNGRY FARMERS AND SHEPHERDS"); ANNOUNCED FORMATION POLITICAL HIGH COMMITTEE TO STUDY QUESTION OF UNIVERSITY AND ITS ACADEMIC FREEDOM; AND REITERATED PLANS FOR DECENTRALIZATION OF UNIVERSITY THROUGH FORMATION REGIONAL UNIVERSITY IN SOUTH AND GEZIRA. UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS' PETITION WAS A "PROTEST" FROM WHICH "PUNISHMENT NECESSARY".

B. THE SSU AND GOVERNMENT. NIMEIRI INDIRECTLY PRAISED ACTIONS CARRIED OUT BY SSU AND GOS DURING HIS ABSENCE, BUT ALSO ANNOUNCED THERE WOULD BE PURGE OF SSU LEADERS AND GOS OFFICIALS WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD, "HYPOCRITES," "INFILTRATORS," THE "WEAK AND IRRESPONSIBLE", THE COMMUNISTS, AND THE "UNCOMMITTED". HE STATED THAT THESE AND OTHER "CORRUPT ELEMENTS" WOULD BE TREATED IN A "REVOLUTIONARY MANNER". "REVOLUTIONARY CONTROL COMMITTEES" WILL BE ESTABLISHED IN EVERY ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT.

C. EXTERNAL INTERESTS. PRESIDENT SAID INTERNAL PLOT WAS ONLY "VAGUE SHADOW" OF PLOTTING ABROAD OF WHICH HE PATIENTLY HAD BEEN LONG AWARE. HE LISTED DERISIVELY THE NEMES OF SEVERAL SUDANESE EXILES SUCH AS EX-FINMIN SHARIF AL-HINDI (KHARTOUM 1992). HE ALSO STRESSED HE AND SECURITY FORCES WELL AWARE OF PLOTS AND RECOUNTED DETAILS OF HOW MESSAGES AND FUNDS CONVEYED. HE SPECIFIED "COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY" ACTIVITIES CARRIED ON FROM BEIRUT, JIDDA, LONDON AND GENEVA AND THAT FUNDS HAVE ALSO BEEN COLLECTED IN NEW YORK. HE REFERRED TO EXILED ANSAR ELEMENTS (IN ETHIOPIA) AND TO EFFORTS STIR UP THE SOUTH FROM THE CAPITAL OF A "NEIGHBORING STATE" (KAMPALA?) WITH FUNDS FROM A THIRD STATE (LIBYA?). HE CONTRASTED HIS ROLE AS A "SIMPLE-HEARTED SOLDIER" TO THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT UNDER "SALON POLITICIANS" AND "THOSE

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LIVING IN PALACES WITH INHERITED GLORY".

D. ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. NIMEIRI WAS BRIEFLY CANDID ON ECONOMIC MATTERS NOTING "SHORTCOMINGS" IN DISTRIBUTION AND PRICES, STORAGE FACILITIES, PUBLIC UTILITIES AND EVEN STATISTICS. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT THESE PROBLEMS HAD EXISTED BEFORE MAY REVOLUTION AS WELL AS AFTER IT.

3. OTHER EVENTS. STATE OF EMERGENCY ENDED AT 6:00 AM SUNDAY, SEPT 9. ATBARA CURFEW ALSO CANCELLED. TROOPS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM KEY POINTS AND REPLACED WITH POLICE OR, IN SOME CASES, NOT REPLACED AT ALL. TRAINS IN KHARTOUM APPEAR RUNNING ON NORMAL SCHEDULE. GOS HAS ANNOUNCED NUMBER OF TRAINS AND SHIPS IN PORT SUDAN WITH COMMODITIES APPARENTLY TO DISPEL FEARS IMPENDING SHORTAGES. WITH A FEW EXCEPTIONS, KHARTOUM STRIKES HAVE ENDED. NIMEIRI HAS ANNOUNCED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS THROUGH REST OF WEEK (AT SSU HDQTRS) WITH YOUTH, WOMEN, KHARTOUM AND LOCAL GOVT LEADERS, SUDANESE WORKERS TRADE UNION AND TRADE UNION COUNCILS, PROFESSIONALS AND TEACHERS UNIONS, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE SSU BASIC UNITS, FARMERS COMMITTEES, MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCE UNITS, ETC. RUMORS PERSIST THAT VIOLENCE IN ATBARA ON SEPT 7-8 RESULTED IN LARGE NUMBER OF DEATHS (11 TO 60). RUMORS ALSO SAY THAT SSU DEPSEC GEN ABU GASSIM WILL STAY, BUT SSU KHARTOUM LEADER MAHDI MUSTAFA MAY BE SACKED. SOME REPORTS OF ARREST MILITARY OFFICERS.

4. COMMENT:

A. THE SPEECH. SPEECH MORE NOTABLE FOR WHAT IT OMITTED THAT WHAT IT CONTAINED. IT AVOIDED HARD LINE BUT ALSO MADE NO REFERENCE TO OPENING OF SCHOOLS, CONSTITUTIONALITY OF LAW AND ORDER, UNION STRIKES (WHICH POSED REAL THREAT TO REGIME RATHER THAN THE UNIVERSITY), ATBARA VIOLENCE, STATUS OF DETAINEES, REFERENCE TO SSU EXCESSES IN THE STREETS OR LAWYERS' PETITIONS. PUBLIC SURPRISE EVEN GREATER IN VIEW HIS HARD-HITTING ARRIVAL STATEMENT (KHARTOUM 2014). INSTEAD, SPEECH WAS LACK-LUSTRE AND NON-CHARISMATIC PERFORMANCE WITH TONE OF A FATHER

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CHASITZING RECALCITRANT CHILDREN. WE ARE INCLINED BELIEVE NIMEIRI HAS NOT YET DECIDED ON HIS FUTURE ACTIONS PENDING MEETINGS WITH ORGANIZED GROUPS NOTED PARA. 3.

B. THE FUTURE. THE COLLAPSE OF THE STRIKE AND NIMEIRI'S TEMPORIZING SPEECH HAVE COMPLETED THE CRISIS. OPPOSITIONISTS HAVE BEEN SCATTERED AND PUBLIC CONTINUES TO WAIT. NIMEIRI IS CORRECT IN STATING THAT EVENT COULD BE SALUTARY IF CORRECT LESSONS DRAWN. HOWEVER, HIS PUBLIC ASSESSMENT THAT CRISIS DUE TO AN UNGRATEFUL UNIVERSITY, EXTERNAL PLOTTERS AND AN INSUFFICIENTLY POLITICAL SSU AND GOS RATHER THAN TO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS (SUPPLY AND INFLATION) AND SSU EXCESSES IS IN OUR VIEW A MISREADING OF THE SITUATION. THERE IS ALSO NO DOUBT THAT NIMEIRI REGIME HAS BEEN WEAKENED BY A LOSS IN OMESTIC AND

INTERNATIONAL PRESTIGE. OPPONENTS IN SUDAN AND ELSE-
WHERE WILL BE ENCOURAGED TO TRY AGAIN SINCE THEY HAVE
PROVED THE REGIME CAN BE SHAKEN.

5. STATUS REPORTS. THIS IS THE LAST REPORT IN THIS
SERIES. FUTURE REPORTING ON POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS
WILL BE ON A NORMAL BASIS.
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